UNITED NATIONS

CCPR

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Distr.
GENERAL

CCPR/SP/SR.25
29 December 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Nineteenth Meeting

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 25th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 13 September 1999, at 10 a.m.

Temporary Chairman: Mr. NDIAYE
(Representative of the Secretary-General)

Chairman: Mr. SEMAKULA KIWANUKA (Uganda)

CONTENTS

OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the record of this meeting will be issued in a corrigendum.

CONTENTS (continued)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES

ELECTION OF OTHER OFFICERS

ELECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLES 28 TO 34 OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, TO FILL A VACANCY IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, FOR THE REMAINDER OF A TERM EXPIRING ON 31 DECEMBER 2002

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS

1. The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, declared open the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

2. He informed the Committee that, following the accession of Burkina Faso, Liechtenstein and South Africa, there were now 144 States parties to the Covenant. Tajikistan, which the Committee had already considered a State party by virtue of succession, had also acceded formally to the Covenant. Moreover, the number of States parties to the Optional Protocol had increased to 95 as a result of the accessions of Burkina Faso, Liechtenstein and Tajikistan, while the number of States parties to the Second Optional Protocol now stood at 38 following the addition of Azerbaijan, Belgium, Georgia, Liechtenstein and Slovakia. Since the Eighteenth Meeting, two more States - Liechtenstein and South Africa - had made the declaration envisaged under article 41, paragraph 1, of the Covenant, bringing the total to 47.

3. The increase in adherence to those and other United Nations human rights treaties reflected a growing consensus in the world about the importance of human rights and the need to further strengthen and extend the observance of international legal norms. During the past year, the Committee had examined initial and periodic reports of 16 States parties, finished the consideration of a general comment on freedom of movement (article 12) and started consideration of draft general comments on gender equality (article 3), and derogations under the Covenant (article 4). The Committee also continued to create distinguished jurisprudence under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant.

4. Since the Eighteenth Meeting, the Committee had adopted 35 "views" under article 5, paragraph 4, of the Optional Protocol, and declared 12 communications admissible and 22 inadmissible. It had also developed a follow-up procedure which enabled it to see the extent to which its recommendations were being implemented. It was a matter of satisfaction that many States parties to the Optional Protocol had amended their laws, paid compensation to victims of human rights violations, released prisoners and provided other effective remedies pursuant to the Committee's views.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

5. Mr. ENKHSAIKHAN (Mongolia) nominated Mr. Semakula Kiwanuka (Uganda) for the office of Chairman.

6. Mr. Semakula Kiwanuka (Uganda) was elected Chairman by acclamation.

7. Mr. Semakula Kiwanuka (Uganda) took the Chair.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (CCPR/SP/55)

8. The agenda was adopted.

CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES (CCPR/SP/2/Rev.1)

9. The CHAIRMAN, after drawing attention to rules 2 and 3 of the rules of procedure of the Meeting (CCPR/SP/2/Rev.1), said he had been informed that the Secretary-General had yet to receive proper credentials from a number of States parties represented at the Meeting.

10. He suggested that, in accordance with rule 3, the representatives of the States parties in question should be authorized provisionally to participate in the Meeting. He urged those representatives to ensure that their credentials reached the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

11. It was so decided.

ELECTION OF OTHER OFFICERS

12. The CHAIRMAN said that, in accordance with rule 4 of the rules of procedure, participants in the meeting had to elect one to four Vice-Chairmen from among the representatives of the States parties. He had been informed that Mr. Balestra (San Marino), Ms. Aguiar (Dominican Republic), Mr. Lordkipanidze (Georgia) and Mr. Hadjiargyrou (Cyprus) had been nominated by the Group of Western European and Other States, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Group of Eastern European States and the Group of Asian States, respectively, to serve as Vice-Chairmen.

13. Mr. Balestra (San Marino), Ms. Aguiar (Dominican Republic), Mr. Lordkipanidze (Georgia) and Mr. Hadjiargyrou (Cyprus) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

ELECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLES 28 TO 34 OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, TO FILL A VACANCY IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, FOR THE REMAINDER OF A TERM EXPIRING ON 31 DECEMBER 2002 (CCPR/SP/54 and Add.1 and 2)

14. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the note by the Secretary-General containing the names and curricula vitae of the candidates put forward by States parties (CCPR/SP/54 and Add.1 and 2). Since the Dominican Republic had withdrawn its candidate, only one candidate was left to fill the vacancy: Mr. Henkin, nominated by the United States. He took it that the Meeting decided to dispense with a secret ballot.

15. It was so decided.

16. Mr. Henkin (United States of America) was elected without a vote as a member of the Human Rights Committee for the remainder of a term ending on 31 December 2002.

17. Ms. AGUIAR (Dominican Republic) said that her Government had decided to withdraw its candidate in order not to depart from the tradition whereby a member who resigned was replaced by a person of the same nationality for the remainder of his or her term. However, she hoped that her country's candidate would be considered for future elections.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

18. The CHAIRMAN declared closed the Nineteenth Meeting of the States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.